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Communications

September 11, 2014

Upgrades to Former Crawley Hospital Facility Set for Completion in Early 2015

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – Officials at Gardner-Webb University say renovations for the new College of Health Sciences building are progressing, and the facility updates are expected to be complete in the second quarter of 2015.

In June, GWU announced the purchase of the 53,500-square-foot Crawley Memorial Hospital building, located at 315 West College Ave., in Boiling Springs. Following extensive renovations that were initiated when the purchase was finalized, the facility will house the University's new College of Health Sciences.

Prior to the acquisition, GWU leased space within the building for the Physician Assistant (PA) program, which began in January. The purchase included the physical structure, along with nearly 26 acres of property. Officials say the facility will offer many additional opportunities for university growth and will house other health science programs currently operating in other locations on the GWU campus.

"This facility provides precisely the kind of space we need to carry out high-quality programs in nursing, physician assistant studies, and preventive and rehabilitative health sciences," said Dr. Ben Leslie, GWU Provost and Executive Vice President. "Having a single building dedicated to the health sciences positions the University for growth in a critical area."

Scheduled in three phases, the renovations are currently more than halfway complete. According to Wayne Johnson, associate vice president for operations, all construction should be complete by the spring of 2015, with instruction in all health science areas set to be relocated by the start of classes next fall. Areas of study that will be utilizing the facility are the programs within the Hunt School of Nursing, athletic training and exercise science programs within the School of Preventive and Rehabilitative Health Sciences, and the PA program. Renovations to the PA program classrooms, offices, and one laboratory space were completed in the first phase of construction, and those areas are now being utilized by students.

In phase two, construction is nearly finalized on Hunt School of Nursing sections including lab spaces, classrooms and administrative offices. Additional lab spaces for the PA program (including exam rooms and simulated doctor's office areas) will also be completed during this phase. Officials say athletic training and exercise science administrative offices are 90-percent finished.

The final phase of the renovation project will address exercise science laboratory and classroom space, and will include the creation of an indoor track and the relocation of the Carolina Chiropractic Plus Human Performance Lab (now in Suttle Wellness Center) to a newly renovated space. General classroom and lab spaces will also be finalized, along with a lecture hall, exam and assessment rooms, and additional amenities. Two existing operating rooms within the facility will be upgraded and repurposed to allow for additional experiential, clinical learning opportunities.

“The demand for healthcare professionals in our region is already quite high, and it is only projected to increase,” Leslie shared. “We are proud to have the opportunity to help meet that demand with well-trained professionals who bring together Gardner-Webb’s unique blend of academic excellence and Christian commitment.”

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University blends a liberal arts core curriculum with nearly 60 major and minor professional programs of study, a comprehensive academic experience that flows from our Christian commitment to intellectual freedom, service and leadership.
